

Claims 1 - 125. (canceled)

126. (Currently amended) A clearinghouse server system method for receiving from publishers of works of authorship offers of licenses, presenting the offers to potential licensees, and, in response to acceptances, without intermediate human activity, transmitting a copy of a work, comprising:

(a) presenting on a computer network license offering registration web pages usable by a plurality of publishers to enter for each of a plurality of works of authorship information to identify the work and all terms for offering a license to make a use of the work;

(b) receiving on the registration web pages from a first computer and a second computer on the network information for a first registration record for a first work of authorship from a first publisher and for a second registration record for a second work of authorship from a second publisher;

(c) storing on the server system a first registration record and a second registration record, the data stored in the first registration record specifying an identifier of the first work of authorship and all terms for offering to license the first work of authorship;

(d) receiving from a third computer on the network the identifier of the first work of authorship and, in response, presenting to the third computer a license offering web page incorporating all of the terms for offering a license to make a use of the first work of authorship; and

(e) receiving from the third computer on the network a message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and a request for an electronic copy, responding to the third computer with a message that the acceptance and request have been received and acknowledged, and, as a consequence of having received the message indicating

acceptance of the offered terms and request for an electronic copy, sending to the third computer via the network an electronic copy of the first work of authorship.

127. (previously presented) The method of claim 126 wherein the electronic copy includes electronically coded text.

128. (Currently amended) A clearinghouse server system method for receiving from publishers of works of authorship offers of licenses, presenting the offers to potential licensees, and, in response to acceptances, without intermediate human activity, printing a copy of a work, comprising:

(a) presenting₁ on a computer network₁ license offering registration web pages usable by a plurality of publishers to enter for each of a plurality of works of authorship information to identify the work and all terms for offering a license to make a use of the work;

(b) receiving on the registration web pages from a first computer and a second computer on the network information for a first registration record for a first work of authorship from a first publisher and for a second registration record for a second work of authorship from a second publisher;

(c) storing on the server system a first registration record and a second registration record, the data stored in the first registration record specifying an identifier of the first work of authorship and all terms for offering to license the first work of authorship;

(d) receiving from a third computer on the network the identifier of the first work of authorship and, in response, presenting to the third computer a license offering web page incorporating all of the terms for offering a license to make a use of the first work of authorship;

(e) receiving from the third computer on the network a message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and requesting that a paper reprint be delivered, responding to the third computer with a message that the acceptance and request have been received and acknowledged, and

(f) after the message indicating acceptance and reprint request is received, as a consequence of having received the acceptance and request, the clearinghouse server system sending to a printer a copy of the work of authorship for printing on paper and delivery.

129. (previously presented) A clearinghouse server system method for receiving from publishers of works of authorship offers of licenses, presenting the offers to potential licensees, acknowledging acceptances without intermediate human activity, and publishing on a publicly accessible network records of licenses granted, comprising:

(a) presenting on a publicly accessible computer network license offering registration web pages usable by a plurality of publishers to enter for each of a plurality of works of authorship information to identify the work and all terms for offering a license to make a use of the work;

(b) receiving on the registration web pages from a first computer and a second computer on the network information for a first registration record for a first work of authorship from a first publisher and for a second registration record for a second work of authorship from a second publisher;

(c) storing on the server system a first registration record and a second registration record, the data stored in the first registration record specifying an identifier of the first work of authorship and all terms for offering to license the first work of authorship;

(d) receiving from a third computer on the network the identifier of the first work of authorship and, in response, presenting to the third computer a license offering web

page incorporating all of the terms for offering a license to make a use of the first work of authorship;

(e) receiving from the third computer on the network a message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and responding to the third computer with a message that the acceptance has been received and acknowledged; and

(f) storing a record of the accepted license and making the record available for look-up by anyone from any computer on the publicly accessible network.

130. (previously presented) The method of claim 129 wherein the step of presenting license offering registration web pages is performed in a first server in the server system and the step of presenting to the third computer a licensing web page is performed in a second server in the server system.

131. (previously presented) The method of claim 129 wherein functions of the server system are distributed across a plurality of physical computers and at least one of the server system steps is performed in the first computer.

132. (previously presented) The method of claim 129 further comprising publishing from a server on the network the first work of authorship in which the identifier of the first work of authorship is embedded such that, when the first work of authorship is displayed on the third computer and a user of the third computer clicks on a hot spot in the work of authorship, the embedded identifier is used to form a network address that links the third computer to the license offering web page for the first work of authorship.

133 (previously presented) The method of claim 126 wherein the electronic copy includes a human readable message indicating that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

134. (previously presented). The method of claim 126 wherein the electronic copy includes a network address of a web page containing an indication verifying that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

135. (previously presented) The method of claim 134 wherein the electronic copy includes a hotspot that, when selected by a user when the electronic copy is displayed on a computer display, causes a browser program to send a retrieve request to the network address of the web page containing a message verifying that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

136. (previously presented) The method of claim 128 wherein the copy sent to a printer includes a human readable message indicating that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

137. (previously presented) The method of claim 136 wherein the message includes a network address of a web page containing an indication verifying that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

138. (Currently amended) A clearinghouse server system that receives from publishers of works of authorship offers of licenses, presents the offers to potential licensees, and, in response to acceptances, without intermediate human activity, transmits a copy of a work, comprising:

(a) a registration web page server component that presents on a public network license offering registration web pages usable by a plurality of publishers to enter for each of a plurality of works of authorship information to identify the work and all terms for offering a license to make a use of the work;

(b) a works registration component that receives on the registration web pages from a first computer and a second computer on the network information for a first

registration record for a first work of authorship from a first publisher and for a second registration record for a second work of authorship from a second publisher;

(c) a database component that stores on the server system a first registration record and a second registration record, the data stored in the first registration record specifying an identifier of the first work of authorship and all terms for offering to license the first work of authorship;

(d) a license query web page server component that receives from a third computer on the network the identifier of the first work of authorship and, in response, presents to the third computer a license offering web page incorporating all of the terms for offering a license to make a use of the first work of authorship; and

(e) an acceptance receiver and fulfillment component that receives from the third computer on the network a message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and a request for an electronic copy, responds to the third computer with a message that the acceptance and request ~~has~~have been received and acknowledged, and, as a consequence of having received the message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and the request, sends to the third computer via the network an electronic copy of the first work of authorship.

139. (previously presented) The system of claim 138 wherein the electronic copy includes a human readable message indicating that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

140. (previously presented) The system of claim 138 wherein the electronic copy includes a network address of a web page containing an indication verifying that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

141. (previously presented) The system of claim 140 wherein the electronic copy includes a hotspot that, when selected by a user when the electronic copy is displayed on a computer display, causes a browser program to send a retrieve request to the

network address of the web page containing a message verifying that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

142. (Currently amended) A clearinghouse server system that receives from publishers of works of authorship offers of licenses, presents the offers to potential licensees, and, in response to acceptances, without intermediate human activity, prints a copy of a work for delivery to a licensee, comprising:

(a) a registration web page server component that presents on a public network license offering registration web pages usable by a plurality of publishers to enter for each of a plurality of works of authorship information to identify the work and all terms for offering a license to make a use of the work;

(b) a works registration component that receives on the registration web pages from a first computer and a second computer on the network information for a first registration record for a first work of authorship from a first publisher and for a second registration record for a second work of authorship from a second publisher;

(c) a database component that stores on the server system a first registration record and a second registration record, the data stored in the first registration record specifying an identifier of the first work of authorship and all terms for offering to license the first work of authorship;

(d) a license query web page server component that receives from a third computer on the network the identifier of the first work of authorship and, in response, presenting to the third computer a license offering web page incorporating all of the terms for offering a license to make a use of the first work of authorship;

(e) an acceptance receiver and fulfillment component that receives from the third computer on the network a message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and a request for a paper reprint, responds to the third computer with a message that the acceptance and request ~~has~~have been received and acknowledged, and, after the

message indicating acceptance is received and as a consequence of having received the acceptance, sends to a printer a copy of the work of authorship for printing on paper and delivery.

143. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~system of claim 142 wherein the copy sent to a printer includes a human readable message indicating that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

144. (amended) The ~~method~~system of claim ~~142~~143 wherein the message includes a network address of a web page containing an indication verifying that the copy was made with permission of an owner of copyrights in the first work of authorship.

145. (previously presented) A clearinghouse server system that receives from publishers of works of authorship offers of licenses, presents the offers to potential licensees, acknowledges acceptances without intermediate human activity, and publishes on a publicly accessible network records of licenses granted, comprising:

(a) a registration web page server component that presents on a publicly accessible computer network license offering registration web pages usable by a plurality of publishers to enter for each of a plurality of works of authorship information to identify the work and all terms for offering a license to make a use of the work;

(b) a works registration component that receives on the registration web pages from a first computer and a second computer on the network information for a first registration record for a first work of authorship from a first publisher and for a second registration record for a second work of authorship from a second publisher;

(c) a database component that stores on the server system a first registration record and a second registration record, the data stored in the first registration record specifying an identifier of the first work of authorship and all terms for offering to license the first work of authorship;

(d) a license query web page server component that receives from a third computer on the network the identifier of the first work of authorship and, in response, presents to the third computer a license offering web page incorporating all of the terms for offering a license to make a use of the first work of authorship;

(e) an acceptance receiver component that receives from the third computer on the network a message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and responds to the third computer with a message that the acceptance has been received and acknowledged; and

(f) a proof of license web page server component that store a record of the accepted license and makes the record available for look-up by anyone from any computer on the publicly accessible network.

146. (new) The method of claim 128 wherein the copy sent to a printer includes a human readable message indicating a name of the publisher of the first work of authorship.

147. (new) The system of claim 142 wherein the copy sent to a printer includes a human readable message indicating a name of the publisher of the first work of authorship.